#### Implementing Smart Growth

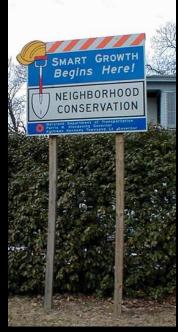
**DOT Air Quality & Livability Conference** 

April 14, 2010

Florence, KY











Lee Sobel

**U.S. EPA, Smart Growth Program** 

#### What is Smart Growth?

- Growth that benefits the economy, the community, the environment, and public health.
- Provides consumers with choices for housing, working, shopping, playing, and getting around.
- Follows well established principles and design techniques, but not one size fits all - each project conforms to the local character whether in an rural, suburban or urban setting.



Haile Village, FL



Mashpee Commons, MA





King Farm, MD

Carlyle, DC

## US EPA and Smart Growth

- US EPA's mission is to protect the environment and public health
- How and where we build have direct and indirect effects on the natural environment and public health
- Not all development affects the environment and human health in the same ways. As communities think about how to grow, they are looking for strategies that protect the environment while accommodating new growth.
- The EPA promotes Smart Growth as a land use and development strategy through its Office of Policy via outreach, education, research, policy and technical assistance.
- The EPA is a Partner member in the Smart Growth Network www.smartgrowth.org.







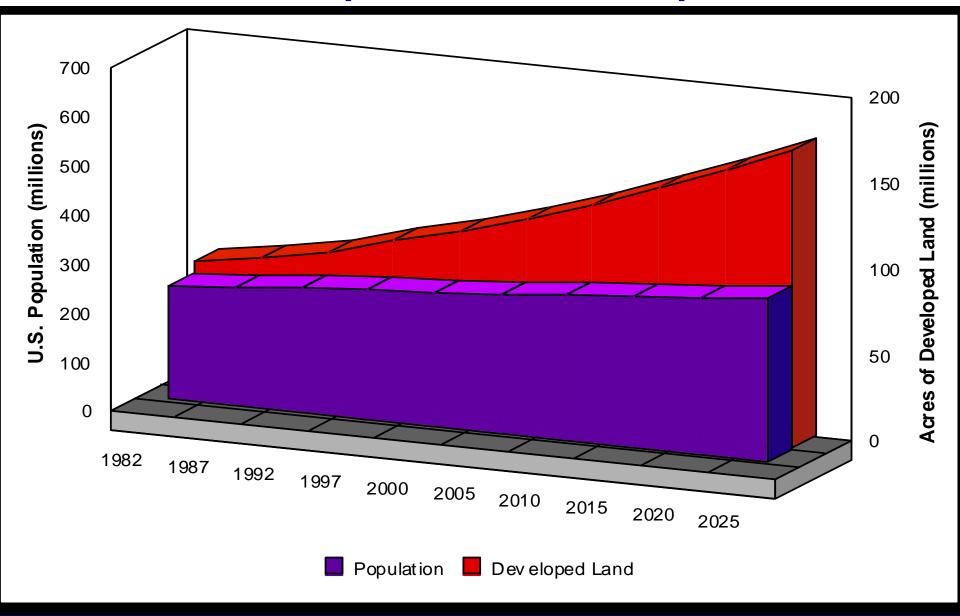
Haile Village, FL

**Mashpee Commons, MA** 

King Farm, MD

Carlyle, DC

#### Rate of Land Development vs. Rate of Population Growth



It's how and where we are growing that are driving our significantly increasing rate of land consumption, not domestic population growth.

#### Characteristic of development since WWII

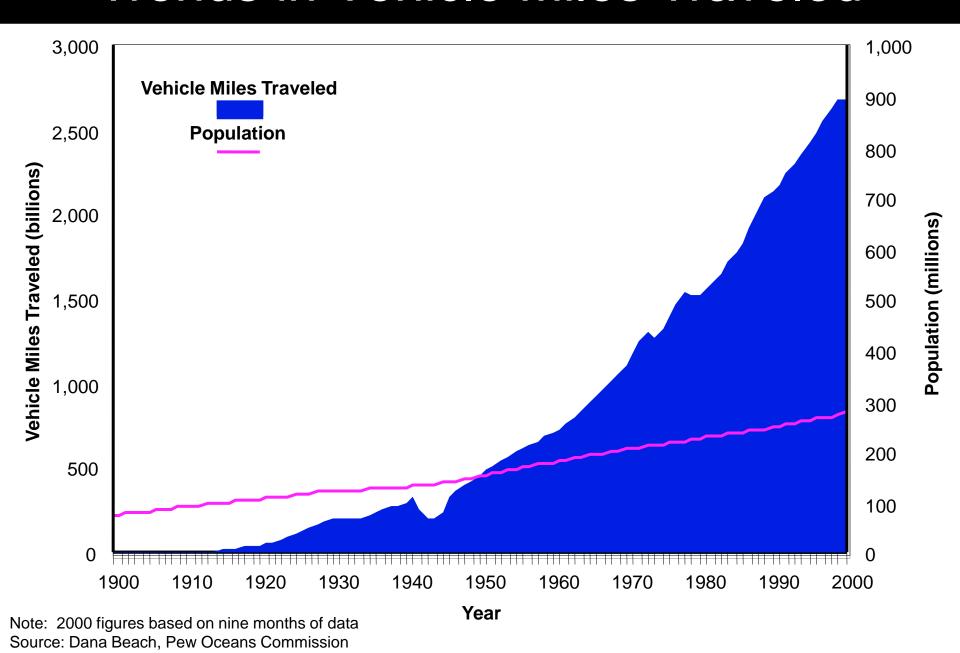
- Low density
- Separation of uses
- Auto dependent
- Disinvestment of older communities







#### Trends in Vehicle Miles Traveled



## No single factor for cause

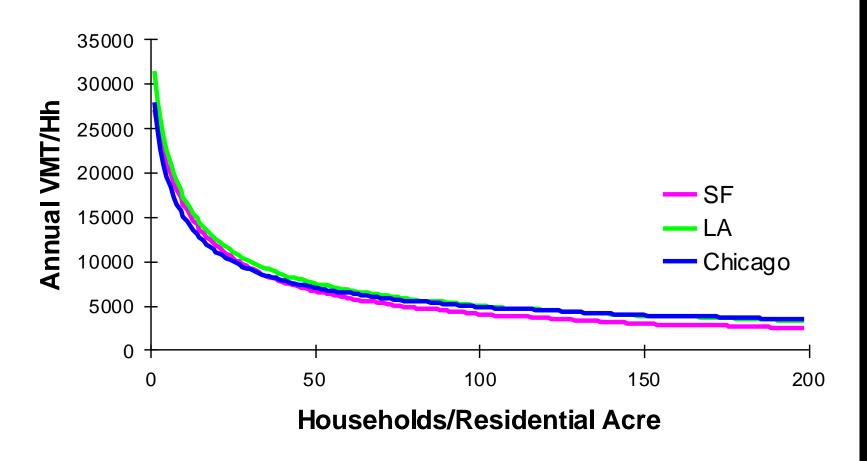
## Land Use, Regional Growth and Development Affected By:

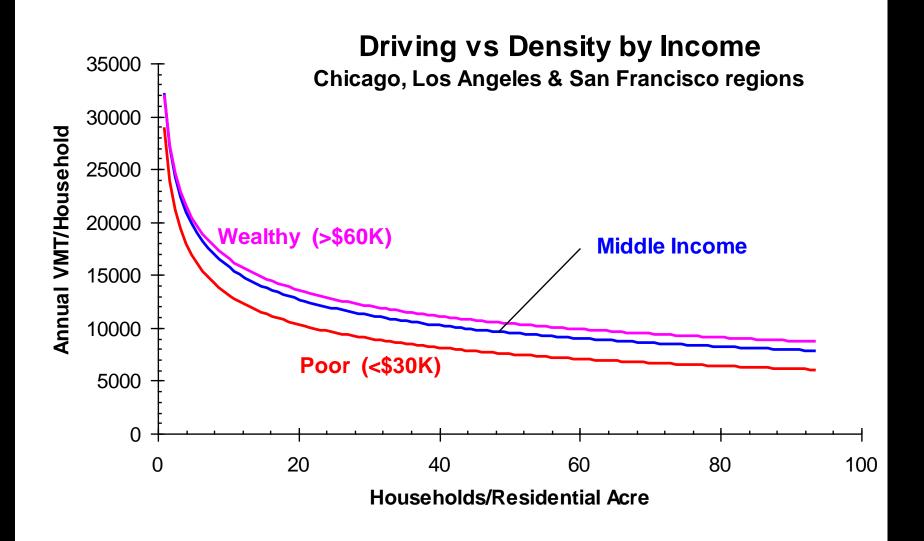
- Federal Policies
- State and Regional Policies
- Local Laws and Practices
- Action of Developers, Real Estate Investors
- Lending Practices

#### Causes to environment and public health

- Contaminated runoff and impaired water quality
- Growth in VMT and worsening air quality
- Loss of habitat
- Diminished access to nature
- Brownfields abandonment
- Increased risk of asthma and obesity

#### **Driving vs Residential Density**





## Reasons to change

- Traffic
- Budget and Taxes
- Environment and Open Space Preservation
- Affordable Housing
- Demographics
- Uniqueness of Place
- Getting it Right the First Time--Retaining Value
- The Market is There
- More Choices



## Smart Growth Principles

- 1. Mix land uses.
- 2. Take advantage of compact building design.
- 3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
- 4. Create walkable neighborhoods.
- 5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
- 6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
- 7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities

- 8. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
- 9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective.
- 10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

### **Location matters**

- Reuse, infill, extensions, and greenfield development within a regional context
- Location of sites and access to existing places and infrastructure are critical components of smart growth developments
- Developers and production builders are most active on greenfield sites
- Good design techniques and environmental outcomes are preferred even if location is not ideal

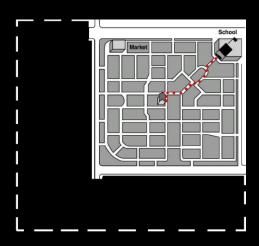


Remote Greenfield Extension Infill

### Same real estate, different arrangement

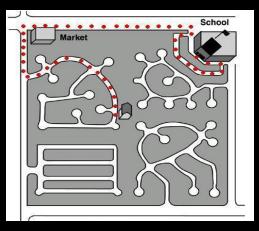




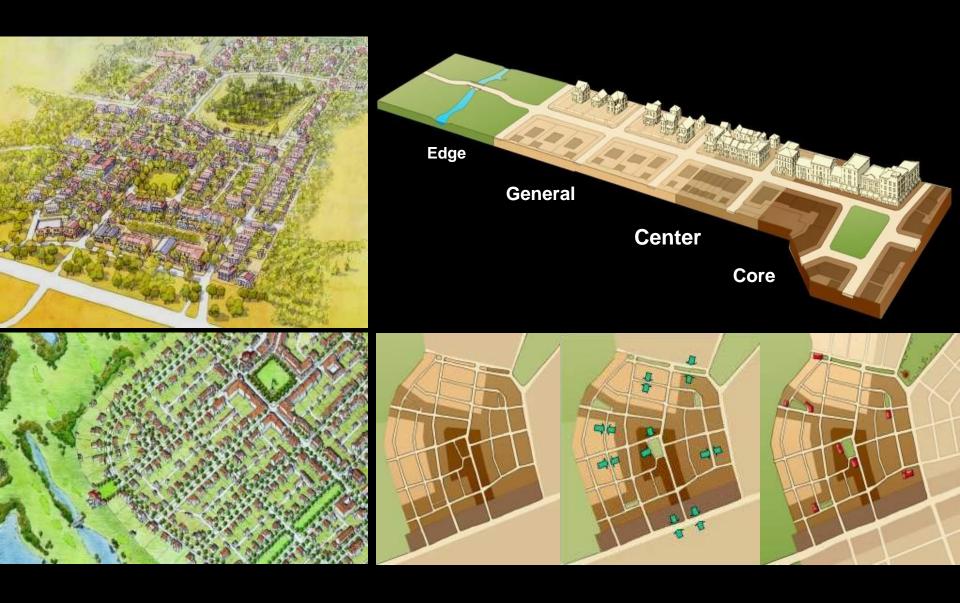








## Smart Growth as <del>Place</del> Product



# 71 smart growth projects under construction 2000 to June 2004

#### Projects we examined:

- Smart Growth Principles
- Under construction or significant expansion between 1Q00 - 1Q04
- All real estate platforms
- Active amenity program
- Deal size to attract real estate industry
- Over 15 acres

#### **Projects not considered:**

- Piecemeal / no Smart Growth Principles
- Smart Growth Principles but:
  - Completed projects
  - Construction/expansion activity after 1Q04
  - Limited amenity program (second-home, Active Adult)
  - Deal size/location (remote), does not attract real estate industry, other special circumstances
  - Under 15 acres or single building in urban/MXD setting

## Smart Growth geographic coverage

• South 32

Southwest: 15

Midwest: 12

Northeast: 7

Northwest: 5

Total: 71

Coverage: 24 States

Most Active: Florida (9), California (9), Ohio (5),

Texas (5), Colorado (4), Maryland (4)

# Supply: The smart growth market for 2000-2004

- 71 projects under construction
  - Housing units

For-sale: 22,624Rental: 11,335

- Retail 6,395,153sf

Office & Industrial17,205,280sf

71 projects upon completion

Housing units95,701

- Retail 23,046,592sf

- Office & Industrial 48,853,453sf

# National developers and production builders competing

- 190 local production and custom home builders
- Other (non-housing) real estate firms entering market:
- New Smart Growth-only developers and builders emerging
- Most active production developers and builders:
  - David Weekley Homes (3 projects)
  - DR Horton (also as Trimark Communities) (5)
  - Lennar (3)
  - Centex Homes (2)
  - John Laing Homes (2)
  - McStain Neighborhoods (2)
  - Others: Beazer Homes, KB Homes, KHovnanian, Newland Communities, Shea Homes, William Lyon Homes

## Capital sources competing

- AIG
- AmSouth Bank
- Bank of America
- Banner Bank
- CalPERS
- Citizens Bank
- Comerica Bank
- Cumberland Bank
- Fidelity Federal
- First Community Bank
- Harbor Federal Savings & Loan
- Huntington Bank
- Johnson Bank
- Manayunuk Bank
- Michigan State Bank
- Mid Valley Bank

- National Bank of South Carolina
- Ocean Bank
- Pacific Continental
- PacTrust
- Portland Development Commission
- Regions Bank
- South Trust
- Umpquah Bank
- Union Bank
- Union Planners
- US Bank
- Wachoiva Bank (2 projects)
- Well Fargo (2 projects)
- Willowgrove Bank

(40 of 71 projects would not disclose)

## Product types

- Large Land / Greenfield
- Suburban Infill
- Redevelopment / Re-Use
- Urban Infill <15-acres (not examined in this report)

## Large Land/Greenfield

Acreage: 600 to 6,000

For Sale Housing (range): 100 to 12,000 units

Rental units (range): 0 to 300 units

Retail/Commercial (sf): 20,000 - 1,000,000

Primary use: Residential

## Stapleton, Denver, CO



• Developer Forest City Stapleton Inc

• Total Cost (est.) \$5 B

Financing debt markets

• Acres 4,700

Housing (units)

• For-sale 8,000

• Rental 4,000

 Builders: John Laing Homes, KB Homes, McStain Neighborhoods, Trimark (DR Horton), 12 others

• Retail 2 M (sf)

• Office/Industrial 10M (sf)

• Other amenities include Public Art Master Plan, K-12 schools, School for the Blind, Science & Technology School, other private schools, land dedicated for place of worship, 1,116-acre regional park system including parks, squares, plazas, trails, and water restoration.

### New Town at St Charles, St Louis, MO



Phase 1 of 9

Image: Whittaker Homes

Developer Whittaker Homes

Phase 1 (of 9) \$200 M total cost
Financing regional state bank

• Acres 726

• Housing (units) 5,700

• For-sale \$120,000 - >\$1M

• Commercial 500,000 (sf)

Other amenities include Six town centers,
 YMCA, five schools, three churches, parks

• Notable: Ranked as the top-selling development out of 17,280 developments in 16 states, according to MarketGraphics survey (Apr-2006).

### Suburban Infill

Acreage Range: 40 to 600

For Sale Housing Range: 0 to 850

Single Family Units: From \$200,000 to \$900,000

• Rental Units: 0 to 4,000

Retail/Commercial (sf): 2,000 to 1,000,000

Primary use: None. Site and market

specific.

## Birkdale Village, Huntersville, NC



Developer Crosland

Pappas Properties

Retail owner Developer Diversified

Realty

• Acres 52

Housing (units)

For-sale no

• Rental 372

• Retail 300,000 (sf)

• Office 200,000 (sf)

Image: Crosland

## Middleton Hills, Middleton, WI



Developer Marshall Erdman &

Associates

• Acres 140

Housing (units)

• For-sale 400

Rental planned

• Retail 41,000 (sf)

Office/Industrial 13,000 (sf)

• Other amenities include park and preserved wetlands and lakes, parks, and green.

Image: City of Middleton

## Redevelopment/Re-Use

Acreage: 15 to 150

For Sale Housing Range: 23 to 2,000 units

Properties Properties Rental units: 0 to 1,600 (average range)

Retail/Commercial (sf): 300,000 – 3,000,000

Primary use: None. Site and market

specific.

## Carlyle, Alexandria, VA





Developer JM Zell Partners

• Devel. Cost \$660 M (2001-2003 est.)

• Acres 77

Housing (units)
 1.885 M (sf)

• Rental, condominium, townhouse

Developers: LCOR, Crescent

Resources, Post

Properties, Cousins

Properties, others

• Retail 375,000 (sf)

• Office 4.225 M (sf)

• Hotel 300,000 (sf)

• Other amenities include four parks, waterfront district, federal courthouse, Patent

& Trade Office

## Atlantic Station, Atlanta, GA



Developer Jacoby Development Inc

AIG Global Real Estate

**Investment Corp** 

• Total Cost (est.) \$2 B

• Acres 138

• Housing (units) 3,000 – 5,000

For-sale yes

Rental yes

 Builders: Beazer Homes, Lane Companies, others

• Retail 2 M (sf)

• Office 6 M (sf)

• Hotel (rooms) 1,000

 Other amenities include 11 acres of parks and open space, One LEED office building (Silver), shuttle to MARTA station.

## Urban Infill <15-acres



Market Common, Arlington, VA



Rockville Town Square, MD



Uptown District, San Diego

# Market demand for smart growth is already here

- Consumer surveys show about one-third of the home buying market wants the smart growth product
  - Private sector reports (Robert Charles Lesser & Co. Compiled 2007)
  - Regional/Metropolitan organizations preference surveys (SMARTRAQ (Atlanta). 2006.)
  - Smart growth studies (SGA/NAR. 2004)
  - Homebuilder surveys (NAHB. 2002)
  - Academic research (Dowell Meyers. 2001)

### Supply/Opportunity gap for smart growth

• 71 smart growth projects as total share of US housing market from 1Q2000 – 2Q2004: .43%

• New units for 2008: 905,359

• Consumer preference to buy SG: 33%

• 2008 supply gap: ~300,000

The market for smart growth is here!

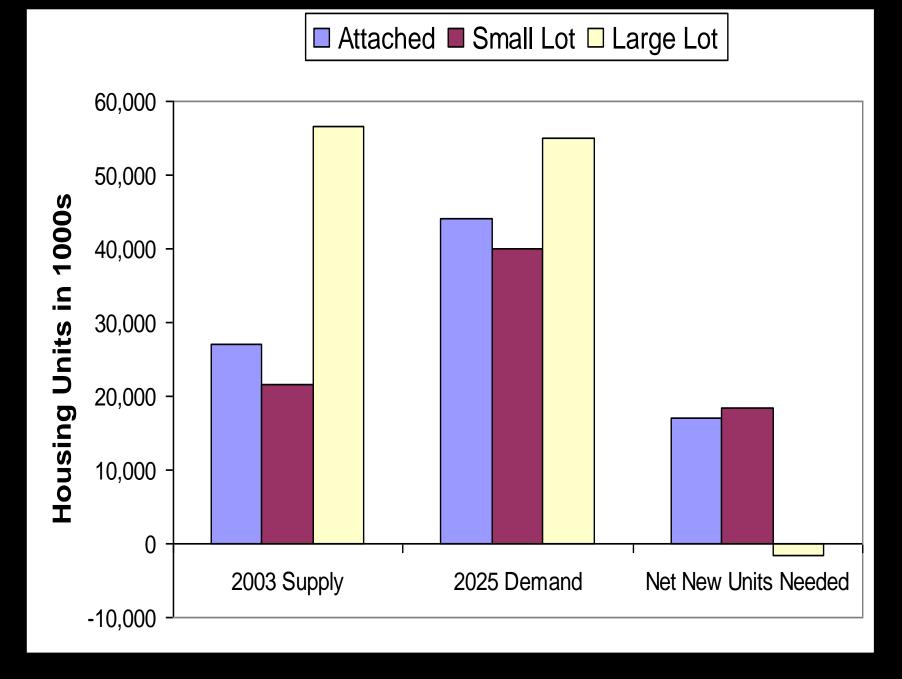
Source: EPA White Paper: The Market for Smart Growth. Gregg Logan, Robert Charles Lesser & Co. 2007, and US Department of Commerce.

# Demographics and consumer preference, today and tomorrow

- Consumer demand for smart growth is one-third of all home buyers and growing
  - Based on projected growth in demographic cohorts, demand for smart growth housing expected to increase. Preference favors attached housing and small lots. Existing supply of large lot housing meets all demand through 2025.
- The definition of the "family" unit is changing quickly

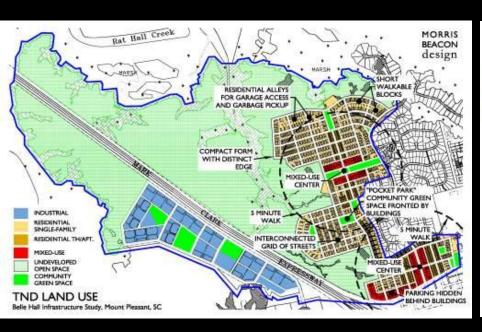
| Households                                   | 2000 | 2025       |
|--|------|------------|
| With Children                                | 33%  | 28%        |
| Without Children                             | 67%  | <b>72%</b> |
| <ul> <li>Single person households</li> </ul> | 26%  | 28%        |

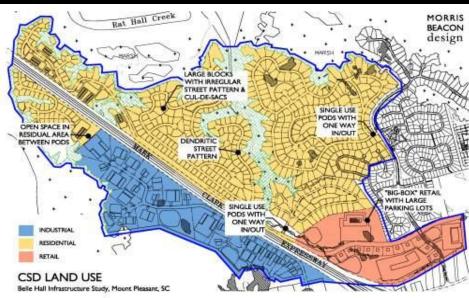
Source: Leadership in a New Era. Arthur C. "Chris" Nelson, JAPA, 2006.



Source: EPA White Paper: Where Will Everybody Live? Arthur C. "Chris" Nelson, Virginia Tech. 2007.

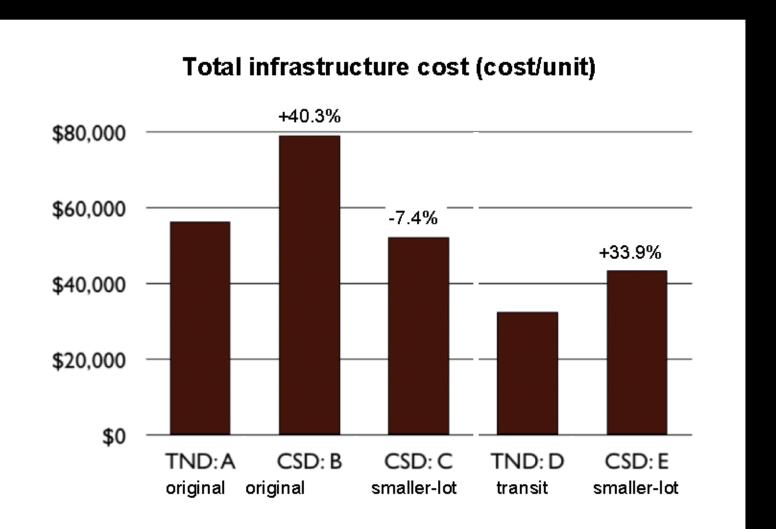
#### Infrastructure: which costs more?





It depends... but, costs are measurable!

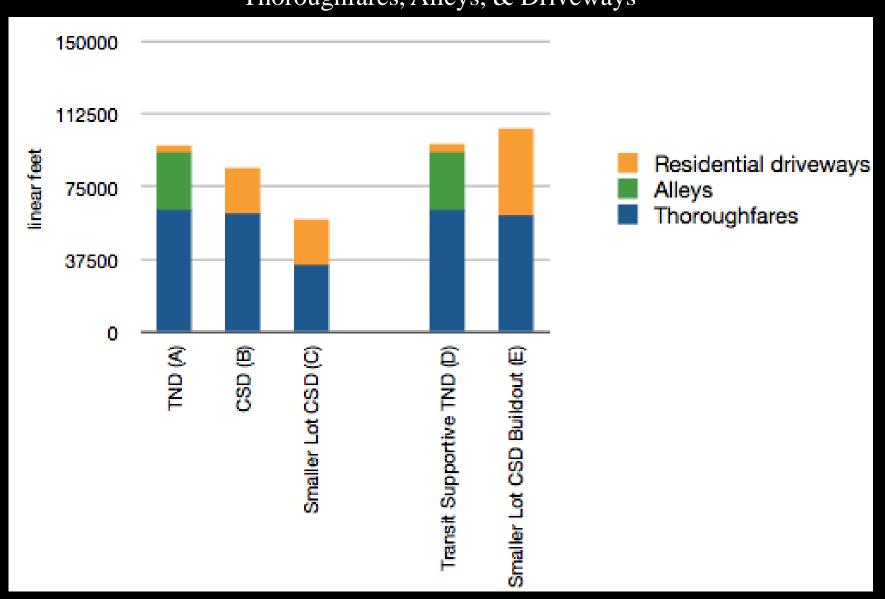
## Making the case: Infrastructure





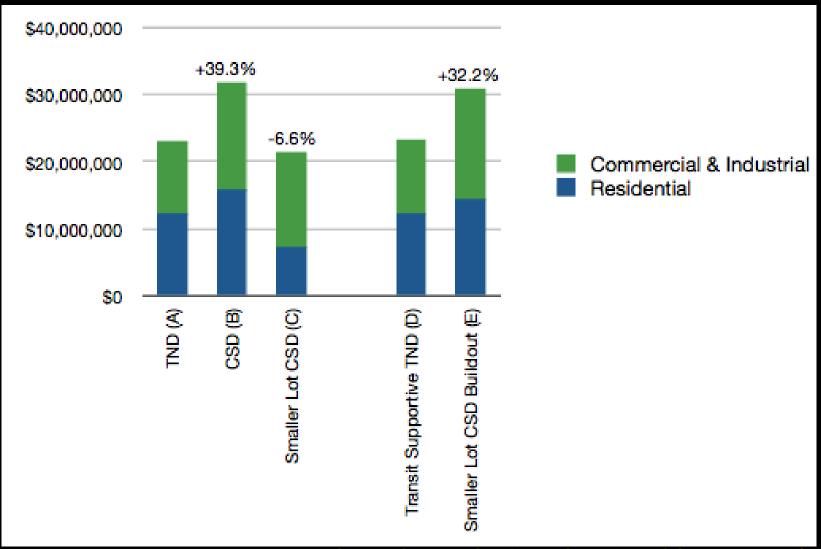
## Making the case: Infrastructure

Thoroughfares, Alleys, & Driveways



## Making the case: Infrastructure

Thoroughfares, Alleys, Driveways, & Parking



## Housing is more cost efficient

| Cost Efficiencies of Production Home Construction Elements |              |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Construction Element                                       | Cost-Neutral | Smart Growth | Conventional |
| Site planning  |              |              | 1            |
| Footprint size and configuration                           |              | 1            |              |
| Foundation - Slab  |              | <b>√</b>     |              |
| Foundation - Stem-wall                                     | 1            |              |              |
| Exterior corners   | 0.00         | 1            |              |
| Roof pitches   | 1            |              |              |
| Exterior doors   | 1            |              |              |
| Exterior windows   |              | <b>√</b>     |              |
| Ceiling heights  |              | √            | 3            |
| Decks and porches  | 1            |              |              |
| Exterior details   | 1            |              |              |
| Quality of materials and finishes                          | 1            |              |              |
| Front elevation variety                                    |              | V            |              |
| 360° vs. 90° architecture                                  | 1            | .0           | 3            |
| Interiors  | 1            |              |              |
| Garage configuration                                       |              | 1            | 800          |
| Garage - attached/detached                                 |              | . 60 0       | 1            |
| Setbacks ("build-to lines")                                |              | 1            |              |
| Floor area and design                                      |              | <b>V</b>     |              |
| Systems approach   | 1            |              |              |





EPA, The Business Case for Smart Growth; Production-Built Homes, 2008.

## Market acceptance of smart growth

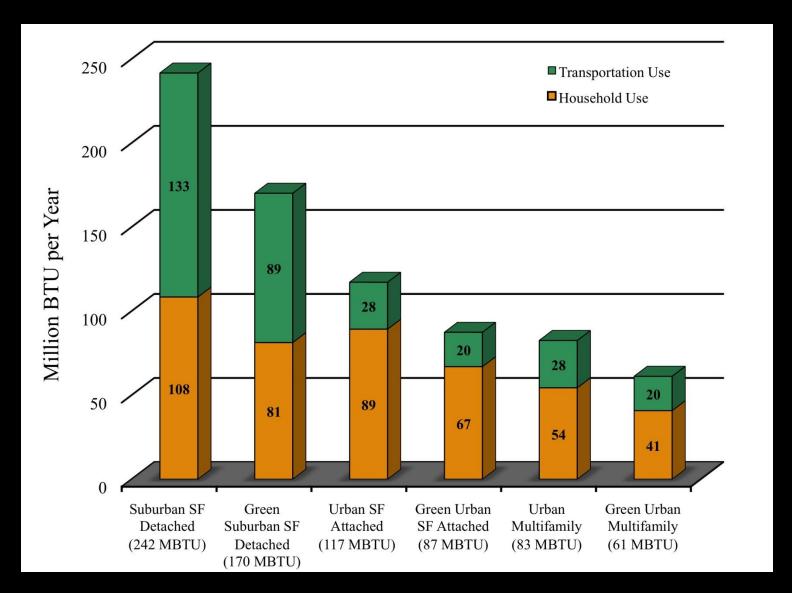
- Valuing the New Urbanism (Eppli & Tu. 1999.)
  - 13% price premium for Kentlands, 1995 1997
- Updated paper by Eppli & Tu, 2007
  - Kentlands, Lakelands, and entire 20878 zip code
    - 4,744 resales between 1997 2005
    - Kentlands 16.1% price premium
    - Lakelands 6.5% price premium

Source: EPA White Paper: Market Acceptance of Single-Family Housing Units in Smart Growth Communities. Mark Eppli, Charles Tu. 2007.

## Premiums for urbanism and density

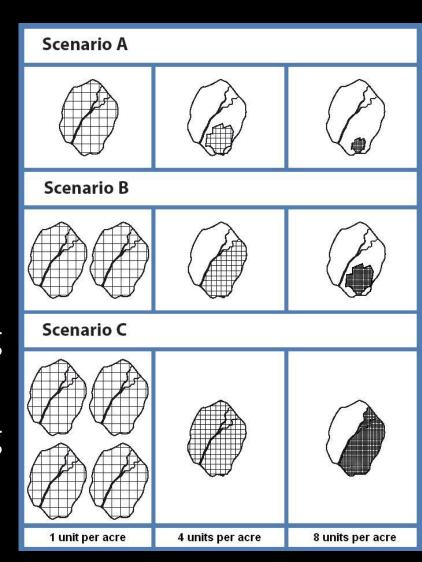
- Urban SFD versus Suburban SFD: 100 150%
- Urban infill condo units versus Urban SFD: 40%
- Urban infill condo units versus Suburban SFD: 51 200%
- Case study markets (2007):
  - Denver and Highland Ranch
  - Seattle and Kirkland
  - New York City and Westchester County
  - Detroit and Birmingham

#### Energy efficiency and location: Urban vs. Suburban "Green"

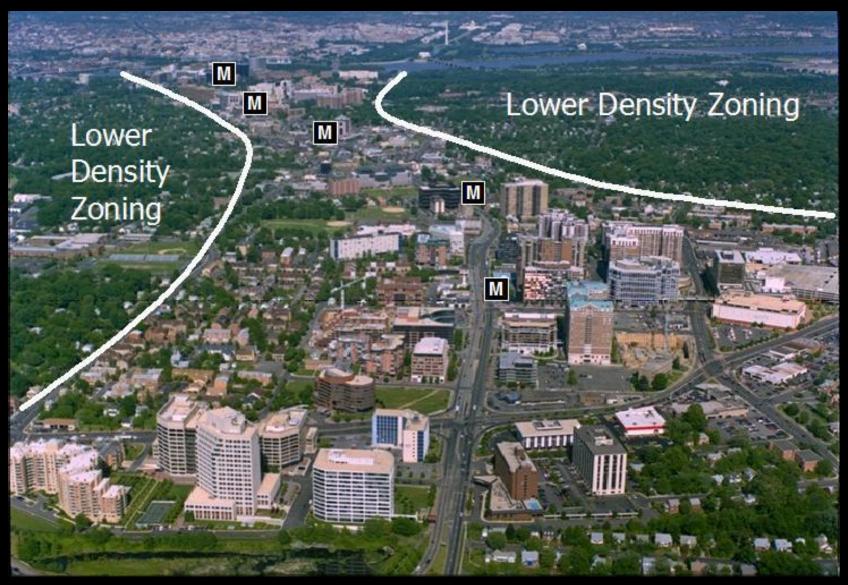


### Housing density and water quality

- All scenarios and densities use 10,000 acre watershed units
  - Scenario A: 10,000housing units in 2000.
  - Scenario B: 20,000 housing units in 2020.
  - Scenario C: 40,000 housing units in 2040.



## Arlington County, Virginia



**Source: Arlington County, Virginia** 









### Thank You

## EPA Smart Growth Program www.smartgrowth.org







